

### **3.7 UPLAND VEGETATION, WILDLIFE AND HABITAT, FISHERIES, AND THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES**

Updates to Section 3.7 include insertions of additional information provided by commenters on the Draft EIS and factual corrections. Factual corrections relate to the number of new towers needed to connect the proposed project to the Bonneville Custer-Intalco Transmission Line No. 2. These updates to the text of the Draft EIS do not substantially change the description of existing conditions or the potential impacts resulting from construction and operation of the proposed project. The addition of mitigation measures further reduces the significance of potential impacts on natural resources in and around the project area. The following is updated information that has been added to the Final EIS.

#### **3.7.1 Existing Conditions**

- On Page 3.7-15 of the Draft EIS, the following sentence should be added to the end of the third paragraph.

The WDFW Priority Habitat and Species database also identifies a bald eagle nesting site within 400 feet of the existing Custer-Intalco Transmission Line No. 2 (see Appendix B, Section 3.1.4, Page 21 of the Draft EIS and Letter 18, Response 2 in Volume 2 of this Final EIS.

- On Page 3.7-17 of the Draft EIS, the following text should be added to the end of the first paragraph.

During prefiled testimony, Michael Kyte stated that the herring stock at Cherry Point has declined. He further testified that he has not seen evidence of adverse effects resulting from the discharge of wastewater from onshore industries (Kyte, Prefiled Testimony, Exhibits 27.0 and 27R.0).

#### **3.7.2 Impacts of the Proposed Action**

- On Page 3.7-20 of the Draft EIS, the following text should be added at the end of the fourth paragraph.

Transmission line construction activities could disturb bald eagle nesting from mid-March to mid-June.

- On Page 3.7-22 of the Draft EIS, the following text should be added after the last sentence of the first paragraph.

The Birch Bay great blue heron rookery is located about 1.5 miles from the project site. WDFW management recommendations for great blue heron include a 3,280-foot buffer between heron colonies and construction activities (WDFW 2004).

- On Page 3.7-23 of the Draft EIS, the first sentence of the fourth paragraph should be deleted and replaced with the following text.

Installation of the transmission system requires a 150-foot-wide, 0.8-mile-long corridor consisting of four new towers.

- On Page 3.7-23 of the Draft EIS, the first sentence of the fourth paragraph should be deleted and replaced with the following text.

As described above in the upland vegetation section, the four tower pads would cover approximately 0.29 acre.

- On Page 3.7-25 of the Draft EIS, the following text should be added after the first full sentence at the top of the page.

Bonneville would consult with WDFW during design of the transmission line to develop the Hydraulic Project Approval.

### **3.7.5 Mitigation Measures**

- On Page 3.7-35 of the Draft EIS, the last sentence of the first paragraph should be deleted and replaced with the following text.

To minimize and control the spread of noxious weed species, all equipment would be cleaned before leaving the site during initial clearing activities.

- Since the Draft EIS was published, the Applicant completed the Final Cogeneration Project Compensatory Mitigation Plan. Also, the Applicant and Whatcom County approved a Settlement Agreement, which among other things identifies specific measures to make the mitigation sites CMA 1 and CMA 2 more “heron-friendly.” On Page 3.7-35 of the Draft EIS, the last sentence of the second paragraph should be deleted and replaced with the following text.

Detailed information associated with proposed mitigation measures is provided in the Final Cogeneration Project Compensatory Mitigation Plan and all of its attachments (see Appendix C of this Final EIS).

- On Page 3.7-36 of the Draft EIS, the following text should be added after the last sentence of the second paragraph.

Bonneville would avoid transmission line construction and maintenance activities near the known bald eagle nesting site from mid-March to mid-June.

- In the Settlement Agreement between the Applicant and Whatcom County, there is a stipulation for site restoration. On Page 3.7-36 of the Draft EIS, the following text should be added after the third paragraph.

As part of the Settlement Agreement between the Applicant and Whatcom County, the Applicant agrees to prepare an initial site restoration plan and submit it at least 90 days prior to the beginning of site preparation. The Applicant would also prepare and submit a detailed site restoration plan to EFSEC for approval within 12 months of the project's completion. The detailed site restoration plan would identify a reasonable time frame for the work, taking into account the various phases of restoration and the anticipated future use of the site.